



**(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau**

**(43) International Publication Date  
19 May 2005 (19.05.2005)**

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/045338 A1**

**(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>:** F25J 3/02, 3/00

④ **Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available):** AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

**(21) International Application Number:** PCT/US2004/032788

**(22) International Filing Date:** 5 October 2004 (05.10.2004)

**(25) Filing Language:** English

**(26) Publication Language:** English

**(30) Priority Data:** 60/516,120 30 October 2003 (30.10.2003) US

(71) **Applicant (for all designated States except US): FLUOR  
CORPORATION [US/US]; One Enterprise Drive, Aliso  
Viejo, CA 92656 (US).**

(72) Inventor; and  
(75) Inventor/Applicant (*for US only*): **MAK, John** [US/US];  
Fluor Corporation, Engineering Building, One Fluor  
Daniel Drive, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656 (US).

(74) **Agent: FISH, Robert D.; Rutan & Tucker, LLP, 611 Anton Blvd., Suite 1400, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 (US).**

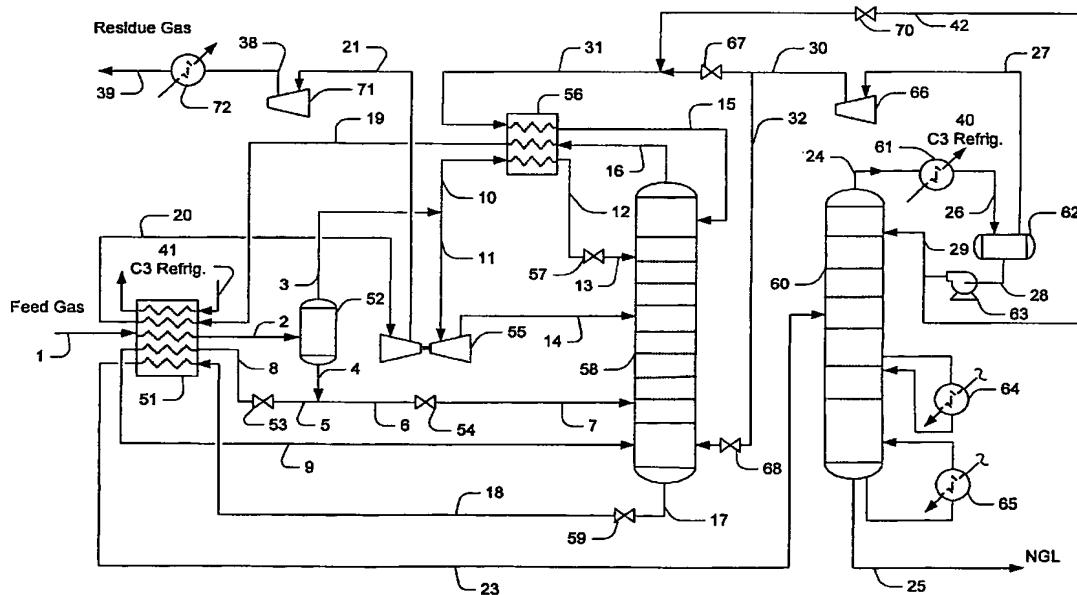
(84) **Designated States** (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

**Published:**

— *with international search report*

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

**(54) Title: FLEXIBLE NGL PROCESS AND METHODS**



**(57) Abstract:** Contemplated plants include an absorber in which the split ratio of various feed streams to an absorber are used to control recovery of a desired component in a bottom product of a distillation column that receives the bottom product of the absorber. In especially preferred aspects, the plant is an NGL plant and the split ratio of the feed streams used to control the level of desired ethane recovery.